

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 JUSE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 OES-03 OMB-01 AGR-05

HEW-02 /084 W

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R 051530Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7210

INFO US MISSION GENEVA 0068

DEA HQS WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LA PAZ 4618

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, BL

SUBJ: NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUG PRODUCTION,
TRAFFIC AND USE

1. THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO CONTROL THE USE OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS WAS INAUGURATED ON JULY 1 IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF CABINET MINISTERS, POLICE OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHURCH, THE MEDIA AND NUMEROUS CIVIC AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS. THE MEETING WAS ADDRESSED BY THE SUB-SECRETARY OF JUSTICE, DR. GASTON LEDEZMA ROJAS, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVIAN ASSOCIATION OF RADIO DIFFUSION, R.P. JOSE GRAMUNT, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS, DR. RUTH MALDONADO, THE AUXILIARY BISHOP OF LA PAZ AND RECTOR OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, MONS. GENARO PRATA, WITH THE KEY SPEECH PRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, JUAN PEREDA ASBUN.

2. ALL OF THE SPEAKERS CALLED FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF THE
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DIVERSE SECTORS OF THE COUNTRY TO ERADICATE THE PRODUCTION,

TRAFFIC AND CONSUMPTION OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS. MINISTER PEREDA STRESSED THAT BESIDES HAVING ITS IMAGE IN THE WORLD TARNISHED BY APPEARING TO BE AN ENCLAVE OF DRUG PRODUCTION, BOLIVIA IS SUFFERING THE DANGEROUS EFFECTS OF INTERNAL CONSUMPTION, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE YOUTH OF THE COUNTRY. THE MINISTER STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS RESOLVED TO DEVOTE ITS FULL ENERGIES TO THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DRUG TRAFFIC APPLYING THE LAW STRICTLY AND IMPARTIALLY IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE NATIONAL INTEREST, SOCIETY, YOUTH AND THE FAMILY.

3. THE SPEAKERS ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR EDUCATIONAL AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES AS WELL AS APPLICATION OF FULL LEGAL SANCTIONS IF THE CAMPAIGN IS TO SUCCEED.

COMMENT: THIS CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF COMES AT A USEFUL TIME AS IT COINCIDES WITH THE VISIT OF A UMN. TEAM CONDUCTING A SEMINAR ON NARCOTICS, AND PRECEDES BY ONE WEEK A REGIONAL MEETING OF HOST COUNTRY DRUG OFFICIALS TO BE HELD IN COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA. THE GOB, THEREFORE, IS ESPECIALLY ALERT TO NARCOTICS DEVELOPMENTS AT THIS TIME AND WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT SEVERAL FORWARD STEPS WILL BE TAKEN BY THE GOB IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO IMPROVE BOLIVIAN PERFORMANCE IN THIS AREA. THESE STEPS INCLUDE ANOTHER REORGANIZATION OF THE DNSP; ADHERENCE TO THE SINGLE CONVENTION; A COCA CROP REGISTRATION PROGRAM; AND AN IMPROVED DISTRIBUTION CONTROL SYSTEM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, DRUG TRAFFIC, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, LAW, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAPAZ04618
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750233-0222
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750783/aaaacvpc.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUG PRODUCTION, TRAFFIC AND USE
TAGS: SNAR, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006